

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

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SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO

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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Executive Registry

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(202) 225-4624

April 13, 1978

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 12, 1978, in reference to the moratorium on the destruction of Agency records, originally invoked by the Church Committee, but lifted by Chairman Inouye of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on December 21, 1977. —

I have delayed in responding to your letter in the hope that it might be possible for the Committee to indicate that it has no objection to the resumption of the normal process of document destruction. Unfortunately, I cannot, at this time, give to the Agency an indication that the Committee's review of the Agency's files relevant to our investigation has progressed to the point where it would be no longer appropriate for the Committee to request that the normal document destruction process not resume. I am sure that you will agree with me that for the Agency to begin even normal document destruction could be, at this time, misconstrued by those concerned about the openness and thoroughness of the Committee's investigation. I make this observation without implying in any regard that the Agency has not been cooperative with the Committee.

It might be helpful if Professor Blakey, the Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Committee, were to sit with appropriate representatives of the Agency to work out a reasonable time frame within which the needs of the Committee - as well as appropriate appearances - can be met, consistent with the Agency's obligations under law. I am sure that Professor Blakey will be